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# Darlaston Urban District Council



## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1955

E. P. McWHIRTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

F. G. ASHCROFT, M.S.I.A.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

**For the year 1955.**

*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Darlaston.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955.

Dr. E. P. McWhirter was your Medical Officer of Health during the year, and retired in March, 1956. I was appointed to succeed here in August, 1956, I shall therefore confine my introductory remarks to a few points.

There was a slight decrease in both the crude and standardised birth rates during the year. The infant mortality rate was 22.4 and this compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales, 24.9—it being the lowest ever recorded.

There was an increase in the number of deaths at 248 ; 60% of these were persons aged 65 or over.

The notification of infectious diseases were higher at 411, than the previous year. This is due to the notification of 355 cases of measles. The number of cases of whooping cough showed a striking reduction from 138 in 1954 to 30 cases. There were no diphtheria cases during the year. These are very welcome indications of the value of protective immunisation in preventing these very serious diseases.

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit visited the Urban District during the year and 8,814 adults and 259 children were X-rayed.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman, and Members of the Public Health Committee who have helped this Department in innumerable ways, and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and members of the staff for their very willing and whole hearted co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. K. HEAGNEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**STAFF.**

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> ..	E. P. McWhirter, M.B., Ch.B. (Univ. Edin.) D.P.H.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i> ..	F. G. Ashcroft, M.S.I.A.
<i>Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	T. H. Meredith, M.S.I.A. (Appointed 10/2/55)
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	Vacant.
<i>Pupil Sanitary Inspectors</i>	M. W. Bunch. W. E. Jevons. (Appointed 31/1/55)
<i>Clerk</i> .. .. .	A. Homer.
<i>Housing Visitor</i> .. ..	Mrs. D. McRae. (Transferred from Housing Depart- ment 4/10/55)

**STATISTICS.**

Area in acres .. .. .	1,534
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in mid 1955 .. .. .	22,070
Comparability factor for deaths .. .. .	1.34
Comparability factor for births .. .. .	0.91
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ..	6,388
Total Rateable Value .. .. .	£97,110
Industrial Rateable value .. .. .	£11,349
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in 1955 .. .. .	£383

<b>Live Births.</b>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	165	138	303
Illegitimate .. .. .	7	3	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	172	141	313
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population .. ..	14.2
Birth rate adjusted for comparison with other places per 1,000 of the resident population .. .. .	12.9
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population .. .. .	15

<b>Still Births.</b>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	10	5	15
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	5	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population ..	0.7
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births .. ..	45.7
Still Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births .. .. .	23.1

**Infantile Mortality.**

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	6	1	7
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				6	1	7
				—	—	—

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age.

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				3	1	4
				—	—	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000  
live births .. .. .. 22.4

Death rate for England and Wales of infants under one  
year of age per 1,000 related to live births .. .. 24.9

Neonatal Death rate per 1,000 live births .. .. 12.8

Neonatal Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000  
related live births .. .. .. 17.3

Of the seven deaths under one year of age the causes of death  
were :—

- 1 Bronchial Pneumonia.
- 2 Pneumococcal Meningitis.
- 1 Massive Suprenal Haemorrhage.
- 1 Atelectasis and Cerebral Oedema.
- 1 Cardiac Failure.
- 1 Ateteclasis.

**Maternal Mortality.**

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis .. .. Nil

Deaths from other causes associated with childbirth .. Nil

Maternal Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000  
live and still births .. .. 0.64

Maternal Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000  
live and still births .. .. 0.64

**Deaths.**

Number of deaths from all causes .. .. .	248
Death rate per 1,000 resident population .. ..	11.2
Death rate adjusted for comparison with other places ..	15.0
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population .. .. .	11.7



## CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory .. .. .	4	0	4
Tuberculosis, other Organs .. .. .	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	0	0	0
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .. .. .	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections .. .. .	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Measles .. .. .	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ..	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach .. .. .	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus ..	10	0	10
Malignant Neoplasm Breast .. .. .	0	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus .. .. .	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	19	12	31
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. .. .	0	0	0
Diabetes .. .. .	2	3	5
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	13	14	27
Coronary disease, Angina .. .. .	17	5	22
Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	8	5	13
Other Heart disease .. .. .	16	26	42
Other Circulatory disease .. .. .	2	3	5
Influenza .. .. .	1	1	2
Pneumonia .. .. .	7	1	8
Bronchitis .. .. .	20	3	23
Other Disease of the respiratory system ..	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .. ..	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	0	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. ..	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations .. .. .	0	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	12	17	29
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	2	0	2
All other accidents .. .. .	3	4	7
Suicide .. .. .	4	1	5
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	0	0	0
Total all causes .. .. .	145	103	248

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1955.

	AGE.													
	20—25		26—30		31—35		36—40		41—45		46—50		51—55	
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
Cancer of Stomach ..														
Cancer of Lungs and Bronchus							1						2	1
Cancer of Breast ..											1			
Cancer of Uterus ..														
Cancer of Other Sites ..								1			1	3	1	5
													2	3
													2	3
													2	3
													1	3
													1	1

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	No. of cases suspected.	Confirmed.	Removal to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever .. ..	16	13	7
Whooping Cough .. ..	30	30	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis .. ..	2	1	2
Measles .. ..	354	355	0
Diphtheria .. ..	2	0	2
Pneumonia .. ..	10	10	1
Erysipelas .. ..	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	0	0	0
Dysentery .. ..	1	1	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever .. ..	0	0	0
Encephalitis .. ..	0	0	0

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.		Pneu- monia.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 .. ..	—	—	1	2	4	6	—	—
1—2 .. ..	—	2	5	1	31	45	—	—
3—4 .. ..	1	—	3	3	34	51	—	—
5—9 .. ..	5	4	10	5	81	86	—	—
10—14 .. ..	3	1	—	—	2	5	—	—
15—24 .. ..	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
25 and over .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	3	7	3
Age Unknown .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. ..	9	7	19	11	155	199	7	3

**TUBERCULOSIS.**  
**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1955.**

Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary. M.   F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.   F.
0— 4 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 9 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10— 14 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— 19 years ..	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20— 24 years ..	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
25— 29 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30— 34 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35— 39 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40— 44 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45— 49 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
50— 54 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55— 59 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
60— 64 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—All ages ..	10	7	—	—	—	—	4	—

### Visit of the Wolverhampton Mass Radiography Unit.

The Mobile Mass Radiography Unit visited Darlaston during March of this year. During this time the Unit was stationed at seven factories mainly in the principal industrial area of Darlaston to facilitate visits by industrial workers, and also at the Bentley Estate and the Town Hall for public sessions.

Some sessions were devoted to members of the public, some to employees from industrial firms, and some were given over to the taking of full size films of those persons whose miniature films were not conclusive. Much preliminary work was carried out in co-operation with the Medical Director of the Wolverhampton Mass Radiography Unit, the industrialists on whose premises this Unit was stationed, and the staff of the Health Department. The response was very good. In all a total of 9,073 adults and children were X-rayed. 7,293 were from industrial concerns, 1,521 were members of the public, and 259 school children. Of these 322 adults and 10 children were recalled for large film examination. The number of active tuberculosis cases discovered was 19, a rate of 1.8 per thousand examined.

### NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED SINCE 1945.

Year.	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1945 ..	21	34	127	52	18	19	2
1946 ..	17	21	7	18	12	15	1
1947 ..	17	55	311	51	16	12	3
1948 ..	6	53	169	29	10	23	2
1949 ..	2	39	133	25	10	16	—
1950 ..	—	14	78	44	13	8	—
1951 ..	2	15	174	74	9	7	4
1952 ..	—	33	145	41	16	4	—
1953 ..	1	28	342	89	27	6	—
1954 ..	—	23	9	138	16	21	3
1955 ..	—	13	355	30	10	17	—



### **Diphtheria.**

Two suspected cases of Diphtheria were admitted to hospital during the year, but Diphtheria was not confirmed on further investigation.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

One cases of Poliomyelitis was confirmed during the year. This child, aged three years, had residual paralysis of both the lower limbs.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There were 13 confirmed cases of Scarlet Fever compared with 23 cases in 1954. There were no deaths from this cause.

### **Tuberculosis.**

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.					Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
Year.	Under 24.	Ages. 25 to 54.	55 and over.	Total.	
1945	11	6	2	19	2
1946	9	4	2	15	1
1947	6	2	4	12	3
1948	10	6	7	23	2
1949	5	7	4	16	—
1950	—	4	4	8	—
1951	1	5	1	7	4
1952	2	1	—	3	1
1953	—	5	1	6	—
1954	1	2	5	8	3
1955	1	1	2	4	—

### **Public Health Laboratory Service.**

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bio-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

### **Infectious Diseases Hospital.**

Admission to this is arranged through the Public Health Department, or in emergency on application by the General Practitioner direct to the Hospital.

**Venereal Disease.**

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall or at the Wolverhampton Royal Hospital.

**General Hospitals.**

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the hospital.

**Maternity Hospitals.**

The patient's doctor arranges admission when it is necessary on medical grounds. If admission on any other ground is thought desirable, application should be made to the Health Visitor, Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

**Midwifery.**

Midwives for the district are provided by the Staffordshire County Council.

**Health Visitors.**

The shortage of Health Visiting Staff continues. The Health Visitors are appointed by the Staffordshire County Council.

**Ambulance Service.**

The Ambulance Depot is now at Darlaston. Telephone No. : James Bridge 2591.

**Home Helps.**

This service for Darlaston is administered by the County Council through their Area Officer at Wednesbury.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

The report of the Engineer and Surveyor on the sewage outfall works is similar to that of last year.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Part of Darlaston is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and part by the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking. Periodically samples are examined. Throughout the year the supply was adequate and in general of satisfactory quality. Trouble was experienced for a short period in one area, due to a heavy proportion of suspended matter. The water was chemically and bacteriologically pure, but of an unpleasant appearance. This was due to a faulty valve in the mains, and after being corrected there was no further trouble.

A typical sample showed the following analysis.

### Results of Examination of Samples of Water taken on 5th July, 1955.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

BACTERIA. Colonies per ml.		COLIFORM BACTERIA.	
Nutrient Agar at 20°C. 3 days	0	Presumptive Test	Absent
Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 1 day	0	Differential Tests	Absent
Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 2 days	0		

#### Physical Characters.

Colour (Burgess)	2 mm.	Taste	Normal
Turbidity—Suspended matter		Odour	nil
pH	7.4		

#### Chemical Analysis (Expressed in parts per Million).

Free CO <sub>2</sub> .		Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )	—
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	174	Calcium (Ca)	60.0
Chlorides (Cl)	108.1	Magnesium (Mg)	11.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Trace	Sodium (Na)	—
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace	Carbonate (CO <sub>3</sub> )	—
Oxidised Nitrogen	2.1	Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	—
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. at 27° C)	.12	Iron (Fe)	.04
Temporary Hardness	168	Manganese (Mn)	.02
Permanent Hardness	30	Zinc (Zn)	nil
Total Hardness	198	Poisonous Metals	Cu nil
Total Solids (Dried at 180°C)	404	Pb	Trace
		Free Cl	nil
Hardness calculated from calcium and magnesium			195

A pure and wholesome supply.



## Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report of the work carried out in the Department during the year ending 31st December, 1955.

Despite staff problems, which have remained with us for so long now, the Department has continued to function with a surprising degree of efficiency. To achieve this it has been necessary to call heavily upon the existing staff and to attempt to concentrate on the more urgent and important functions of the Department at the expense of the lesser ones.

Typical of this has been the work carried out under the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954. Hence the late publication of this Report. Rightly, in my opinion, it was decided to give the necessary emphasis to complete the survey of all the houses in the district, placing each house in a category of degree of unfitness. From this Survey the Slum Clearance Proposals under Section 1 of this Act, were drawn up. A summary of these proposals is included in the Report.

It becomes increasingly obvious that to achieve the completion of this proposed Slum Clearance Programme within a five year period greater emphasis will have to be placed upon Slum Clearance needs for rehousing than upon "General Need." Indeed, when one considers the external factors governing Council building it is difficult to form a reliable estimate of the future house building programme.

A different type of housing problem is arising and causing some concern. I refer to the over occupying of houses by immigrants to this country. Time and patience will be necessary to bring these houses up to the required standards.

The routine work of this Department has continued and though most of it goes unsung and, in some instances, even unnoticed, its importance is in no way diminished. Standards must not be relaxed because there has been some improvement in environmental conditions for past evils can return and it must be admitted that as times change much must be achieved in the fields of environmental hygiene which are becoming increasingly

important. Atmospheric pollution is an example. For hundreds of years, the air has been polluted to an increasing degree and at last there are signs that the legislation to fight this state of affairs is to be provided. Law alone is insufficient. By far the most effective weapon in a Clean Air Drive could be the public conscience.

Similarly, with Food Hygiene, the public can help themselves to raise standards with but little effort. Experience has shown that if a reasonable approach is made by a customer, the management does not resent a complaint, but rather, is grateful for the reminder. Next year should see the introduction of New Regulations affecting food premises and it is hoped that the Department will be able to devote the necessary time to apply these Regulations to the appropriate premises.

In conclusion, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Members of the Council for their support during what has been, on the whole, a difficult year. In particular, I am indebted to the Medical Officer of Health and to the members of the Staff without whose hard work, little could have been achieved. Finally, I must commend the Chief Officers of other Departments for the high degree of co-operation received.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. ASHCROFT, M.S.I.A.

**HOUSING.**

The following houses were erected by the Council during the year :—

Street.		One Bedroom.	Two Bedrooms	Three Bedrooms	Four Bedrooms
Attlee Road .. ..	..	—	6	22	—
Churchill Road .. ..	..	8	1	3	—
Cripps Road .. ..	..	—	—	4	—
Cunningham Road .. ..	..	8	—	—	—
Monmouth Road .. ..	..	—	19	1	—
Queen Elizabeth Avenue ..	..	—	—	12	—
Total of each type ..	..	16	26	42	0
Total of all types ..	84				

The following houses were built by Private Enterprise :—

Mountbatten Road .. ..	2
Queen Elizabeth Avenue .. ..	1
Wilkes Avenue .. ..	12
Wolverhampton Road West ..	1
Total .. ..	16

Total of new houses erected in 1955 :—

Council.. ..	84
Private.. ..	16
	100

**HOUSING ACT, 1936.****Houses Physically Demolished.**

Catherines Cross 14, 15, 16, 118, 119, 80, 81 ..	7
Foundry Street, 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 6b, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37/38, 40a, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 .. .. .	39
Mill Street, 42, 44, 46, 48, 18 .. .. .	5
Moxley Road, 3, 5, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 64, 66 .. ..	
Court 1, Houses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 .. .. .	26
St. George's Street, Court 1, Houses 10, 11, 12 ..	3
Smith Street, 17 .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
	81
	<hr/>

**Houses which became void—Formal Action.**

Bell Street, 29 .. .. .	1
Bilston Street, 32, 33 .. .. .	2
Dangerfield Lane, 1 .. .. .	1
Moxley Road, 36 .. .. .	1
St. George's Street, Court 1, House 12 .. .. .	1
Station Street, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12 .. .. .	7
Walsall Road, 269 (front), 269 (rear) .. .. .	2
High Street, (Moxley), 14 .. .. .	1
Foundry Street, 20 .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
	17
	<hr/>

**Houses which became void—Informal Action.**

Heath Road, Heath Flat .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
	1
	<hr/>

**Houses on which Demolition Orders were made under Section 11.**

Bell Street, 29 .. .. .	1
Catherines Cross, 78 .. .. .	1
High Street, Moxley, 38, Rear 38, 40 .. .. .	3
Station Street, 58, 59, 60 .. .. .	3
	<hr/>
	8
	<hr/>

**Houses on part of which Closing Orders were made under Section 12.**

146, The Green, Outbuildings rear of      ..      ..      1

**Rehousing Progress.**

The Housing Supervisor has supplied the following information

New Houses Let.	No. Sub-Tenants Rehoused.	No. of Tenants Rehoused.	Old Age Pensioner Accommodtn.	Demolition Property Vacated.
79	72 (inc. re-lets)	5 (inc. relets)	10	17

**Housing Act, 1936—Part III.**

The housing position as regards action under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, is as follows :—

	Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished.		No. of persons displaced up to 31/12/55.	No. of Dwelling Houses made Fit.
	Unfit Houses.	Other Houses.		
<b>PART A.</b> Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land coloured “ Pink ” ..	260	—	1,061	—
(ii) Land coloured “ Grey ” ..	—	—	—	—
<b>PART B.</b> Improvement Areas      ..      ..	—	—	—	—



Rehousing of the occupants of the houses in the Foundry Street and Park Street areas continued in 1955, a further 20 persons being rehoused during the year.

### FOR YEAR 1955.

#### Part C.

Unfit Houses not included in clearance areas or improvement areas.

Note.—The references below relate to Part 2 sections of the Act of 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of procedure under Section 11 .. .. .	35
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal action .. .. .	4
(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the house for human habitation ..	—
(4)	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) .. ..	1
(5)	Number of persons displaced as a result of action	
	Under (1) above .. .. .	23
	Under (2) above .. .. .	—
	Under (3) above .. .. .	9
	Under (4) above .. .. .	Nil

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. ..	611
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	611
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	30
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .	30

(3) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	21
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	590

2. **Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .	145
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3. **Action under Statutory Powers during the year.**

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners .. .. .	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	—

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	89
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	67
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	—

## HOUSING ACT, 1949.

### Improvement Grants.

Grants totalling £2,435 11s. 4d. were approved by the Council in respect of the following 19 houses :—

Castle Street, 27	..	..	..	..	..	1
Charles Foster Street, 5	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cope Street, 9	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dorsett Road, 93	..	..	..	..	..	1
Queen Street, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rubery Street, 30	..	..	..	..	..	1
Short Street, 6	..	..	..	..	..	1
Waverley Road, 28	..	..	..	..	..	1
Willenhall Road, 59, 61, 63	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wolverhampton Street, 17	..	..	..	..	..	1
						19

Work was completed at the following houses :—

Castle Street, 27	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cope Street, 9	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dorsett Road, 93	..	..	..	..	..	1
King Edward Street, 47	..	..	..	..	..	1
Short Street, 6	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wolverhampton Street, 17, 65	..	..	..	..	..	2
						7

## HOUSING SURVEY.

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Section 1 of this Act required the Council to estimate the number of unfit Houses in the district which should be demolished and to forward to the Minister for his approval proposals to indicate how this programme would be carried out. The basis of this programme was to be five years in which to give effect to the proposals made to the Minister.

Fortunately it was possible to prepare and submit the proposals for Darlaston within the period prescribed.

The following are the essential facts of the proposals :—

- (1) Estimated number of unfit houses suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. . 572



- (2) Number of houses to be demolished in the five years, by action under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936      ..      ..      ..      ..      ..      470
- (3) Number of houses to be demolished in the five years, by action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936      ..      ..      ..      ..      ..      102

A subsequent survey resulted in a slight revision of these figures due to action taken under the Housing Act, 1936, and other changes in circumstances.

At a Special Meeting of the Health Committee the details of the revised programme were agreed upon. The essential details are as follows :—

Each house in the district was assigned to a category dependent upon condition and surroundings.

Total unfit houses	..	..	..	..	..	599
Houses subject to Closing Orders	..	..	..	..	..	11
Houses subject to Undertakings	..	..	..	..	..	1
Houses already being dealt with in Clearance Areas or by Section 11 Orders	..	..	..	..	..	66
						<hr/> 78
Houses requiring action for demolition	..	..	..	..	..	<hr/> 521

### First Year of Programme.

It was proposed that during 1956 the houses to be dealt with would be as follows :—

- (a) By Clearance Area action  
     9 Proposed Areas involving a total of      73 houses.
- (b) By Section 11 Demolition Orders—  
     20 Individual Houses      ..      ..      ..      20 houses.
- Total      ..      ..      ..      93 houses.

### Estimated New Houses required.

It is obvious that before embarking upon such a programme of demolition as has been outlined above, it is essential that the Council be able to secure the necessary re-housing of occupants. With this in mind, the houses included in the Proposals were

visited and details of the occupants recorded. From this information was compiled an estimate of future re-housing needs for Slum Clearance purposes.

	One Bed- room.	Two Bed- rooms.	Three Bed- rooms.	Four Bed- rooms.	Total.
Programme ..	189	227	102	5	523
Current .. ..	6	16	5	—	27
	195	243	107	5	550

### **PUBLIC BATHS.**

The building is of modern construction and by virtue of its design and construction, compares favourably with any in the Midlands. Full provision is made for heating, filtering, and sterilising the 133,000 gallons of water contained in the swimming pool. Slipper baths and foam and medicated baths are available. Periodical samples of the swimming pool water are taken and submitted for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**  
**and HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

**Nuisances.**

Schedule of certain individual items found to be causing nuisances and in respect of which Notices were served :—

Defects causing nuisance.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Nuisances Abated.
Ceiling Plaster .. .. .	44	38	48
Chimneys/Flues .. .. .	40	33	41
Dampness .. .. .	108	67	51
Doors .. .. .	19	30	16
Drain Stoppages and Defects .. .. .	819	9	806
Dry Rot, Woodworm .. .. .	8	1	7
Eavesgutters/Rainwater Pipes .. .. .	58	93	56
Fireplaces .. .. .	11	3	9
Floors solid .. .. .	5	15	3
Floors Wooden .. .. .	17	18	14
Flooded Cellars .. .. .	2	—	2
Roofs .. .. .	130	147	137
Sinks .. .. .	13	14	12
Staircases .. .. .	10	16	6
Walls .. .. .	28	78	25
Wall Plaster .. .. .	57	48	47
Washboilers .. .. .	4	17	7
Wash-houses .. .. .	12	50	9
Water Supply .. .. .	16	1	8
W.C. Compartments .. .. .	88	76	85
Washing facilities .. .. .	1	—	—
Windows .. .. .	70	106	52
Paving .. .. .	—	28	—
Gates .. .. .	1	—	—
Accumulations .. .. .	2	2	—
Skirting boards .. .. .	7	4	3
Food Storage .. .. .	—	3	—
Ventilation .. .. .	—	8	—
Totals .. .. .	1570	905	1444

**Infectious Diseases and Disinfestation.**

Visits to infectious disease cases .. .. .	20
Premises disinfected after infectious disease or on request for other reasons .. .. .	14

Premises disinfested in connection with verminous conditions .. .. .	30
Terminal disinfection following deaths from Tuberculosis .. .. .	5
Destruction of Bedding .. .. .	16
Steam disinfection of bedding .. .. .	1
Steam disinfestation of bedding .. .. .	1

### REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

1955.	Refuse.	Waste Paper.		
	Tons.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
January .. .. .	635	20 1 2	150	11 3
February .. .. .	605	12 11 0	94	2 6
March .. .. .	704	17 8 0	130	10 0
April .. .. .	619	7 19 0	63	12 0
May .. .. .	594	20 1 0	160	8 0
June .. .. .	653	16 2 0	128	16 0
July .. .. .	607	15 7 0	122	16 0
August .. .. .	644	9 3 0	73	4 0
September .. .. .	651	20 18 0	167	4 0
October .. .. .	624	13 13 0	109	4 0
November .. .. .	653	14 5 2	114	4 0
December .. .. .	651	14 16 0	118	8 0
Totals .. .. .	7,640	182 5 0	1,432	19 9

This information has been supplied by courtesy of the Engineer and Surveyor to the Council.

### MEAT AND FOODS.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, both of which are owned and operated by Pork Butchers. One of the licensed slaughterhouses is leased by the Council, and butchers wishing to slaughter have entered into agreements with the Council.

Receipts for slaughtering on the Council leased premises came to £427 6s. 0d.

Number of persons registered as slaughtermen, 16

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and found unfit in whole or in part.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed .. .. .	—	—	88	2284	4731	—
Number inspected .. .. .	—	—	88	2284	4731	—
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</b>						
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	1	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	137	440	—
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci .. .. .	—	—	—	6%	9.3%	—
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>						
Whole carcases condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	221	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	4.7%	—
<b>Cysticercosis.</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to Treatment by refriger- ation .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—

The weight of meat found unfit in connection with the above table was 4 tons, 2 cwts., 3 qrs., 1 lb., 5 ozs.



**Unfit Food.**

The following items were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Item.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Cheese .. .. .	39	8
6 tins Ham .. .. .	59	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ham .. .. .	20	0
1 Pig's Hind Leg .. .. .	18	0
Roe .. .. .	42	0
3 tins of Condensed Milk .. .. .	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	pints.
5 tins of Evaporated Milk .. .. .	78	fl. ozs.
14 tins Evaporated Milk .. .. .	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	pints
29 tins Corned Beef .. .. .	90	0
Corned Beef .. .. .	3	0
96 tins of Tomatoes .. .. .	106	12
5 tins of Salmon .. .. .	3	8
5 tins of Veal .. .. .	30	0
Veal .. .. .	1	0
8 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat .. .. .	20	4
Pork Luncheon Meat .. .. .	1	0
20 tins Peas .. .. .	16	3
Plaice .. .. .	60	0
1 tin Tongue .. .. .	6	0
Tongue .. .. .	4	0
33 tins Butter Puff Biscuits .. .. .	148	4
1 tin Grapefruit .. .. .	1	0
2 tins Baked Beans .. .. .	1	0
3 tins Crab .. .. .	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
2 tins Pilchards .. .. .	1	13
7 tins Pineapple .. .. .	9	2
1 tin Ox-Tail Soup .. .. .		15 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 tin Mock Turtle Soup .. .. .		10
1 tin Brisket Beef .. .. .	5	0
8 tins Apples and Bilberries .. .. .	7	12
1 tin Apple Pudding .. .. .	1	0
1 tin Sliced Apple .. .. .	1	2
9 tins Apple Sauce .. .. .	8	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
12 tins Apricots .. .. .	11	15 $\frac{1}{2}$

<i>Item.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
2 tins Stewed Steak .. .. .	1	10
9 tins Soup .. .. .	2	8½
6 packets Cheese Spread .. .. .	1	8
1 tin Minced Meat .. .. .		12
Brawn .. .. .	1	8
Sausage .. .. .	1	0
3 tins Baked Beans .. .. .	1	12
2 tins Marmalade .. .. .	1	0
5 tins Peaches .. .. .	5	8½
2 jars Strawberry Jam .. .. .	2	0
1 tin Fruit Salad .. .. .		15½
1 tin Bourn-Vita .. .. .		4
2 tins Pears .. .. .	2	0
2 tins Scotch Broth .. .. .	1	5
1 tin Cherries .. .. .		15
		<hr/>
		744 4¾
		plus 78 fl. ozs.
		and 21¾ pints.
		<hr/>

### Disposal of Unfit Foods.

Tinned goods which are not suitable for disposal by burning are transported to the Town Hall Yard where a workman smashes the tins to render the contents unusable. The resultant articles are then conveyed to the Council's controlled tip where they are deposited at the Base of the Working Face and the day's refuse deposited on top and consolidated to ensure there is no nuisance from fly breeding or smells and no opportunity given for rats to feed on this food.

Items of food such as parts of pig carcasses, loose ham, etc., which are suitable for destruction by burning are, immediately after surrender to the Inspector, taken by a Council workman to the Council's Incinerator and forthwith destroyed by burning. The arrangements are such as to ensure that there is no possibility of any unfit food of this nature being diverted and finding its way to the Public.

Fortunately there exists a very high degree of co-operation between the traders in the town and the staff of the Health Department which ensures adequate disposal of any unfit food.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

There is one Civic Restaurant in the area.

				<i>No. in District.</i>	<i>Visits Made.</i>
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	65	45
Bakehouses	..	..	..	6	7
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	16	8
Preserved Food Premises	..	..	..	5	7
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	27	58
Ice-Cream	..	..	..	78	16
Slaughter Houses	..	..	..	2	254

**MILK SUPPLY.**

The whole of the milk supply in the district is heat treated, approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no plants for the heat treatment of the milk in the district.

There are no producers of milk in the district.

The following were registered for the sale of milk in this area under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

**Supplementary Licences.**

Sterilised	..	..	..	..	10
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	10
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	9
Dealers Licences—					
Sterilised	..	...	..	..	74
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	17
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	8

**SAMPLING.**

Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following information regarding samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and details of samples of milk taken to ascertain cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.



**LIST OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR 1955.****Milk.**

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	16
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	..	17
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	15
Milk T.T. Channel Island	..	..	..	..	1
Milk Pasteurised Channel Island	..	..	..	..	1
					<hr/> 50 <hr/>

All the samples were genuine.

**General Foods.**

Number of samples taken	..	..	..	21
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	19
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	..	2

**Classification of General Foods.**

Cream Butter (two samples).  
 Refined Bicarbonate of Soda B.P.  
 Sweetened Steamed Pudding Mixture.  
 Sage and Onion Stuffing.  
 Coconut Crispie Biscuits.  
 Lime Flavoured Soft Drink Powder.  
 Caramel Flavour Instant Pudding.  
 Iced Chocolate Layer Cake Mix (two samples).  
 Lard.  
 New Zealand Butter.  
 Dried Sage.  
 Thick Pea Soup.  
 English Rhubarb.  
 Buttered Toast.  
 Gin.  
 Whisky (three samples).  
 Rum.

**Particulars of Adulterated Samples.**

Iced Chocolate Layer Cake Mix—Informal—Does not comply with the Labelling of Food Order.  
 Iced Chocolate Layer Cake Mix—Formal—Contravenes the 'Labelling of Food Order.  
 Labels now amended.

**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
DURING 1955.**

	No. of	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase Test.		Turbidity Test.		Methylene Blue Test.		Biological	
		Satis-	Unsatis-	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.
Tuberculin Tested	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	10	6	—	10	—	—	—	8	2	—	—
Pasteurised ..	14	9	—	14	—	—	—	12	2	—	—
Sterilised ..	11	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	38	15	—	24	—	11	—	21	5	1	—

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 — (PART 1).**

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	1	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	2	92	118	4	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	3	3	4	—	—	3
TOTALS .. .. .	—	96	123	4	—	—

## 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted.
		Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	Referred By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.4)	3	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) .. ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	6	4	4	—	5	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	7	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .. ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	—	4	4	—	5	—

### **PETROLEUM ACTS.**

Number of licences issued to Store Petrol or Petroleum Spirit	40
Number of gallons of Petrol and Petroleum Spirit stored	45,610
Number of licences issued to store Carbide of Calcium	.. 2
Amount of Carbide of Calcium stored	.. 6 tons 4 cwts.
Number of licences issued to store Cellulose	.. .. 3
Amount of Cellulose stored (Galls)	.. . .. 9,500
Income from licences	.. .. .. £32 5s. 0d.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

#### **Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.**

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

Business premises (Factories, shops, etc.)	.. .. 18
Private Dwelling Houses	.. .. 54
Estimated kill (rats)	.. .. 1,338
Estimated kill (mice)	.. .. 273

#### **Disinfestation.**

17 premises were treated against insects and vermin.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.**

One licence was applied for, but the particular case was found to be outside the provisions of the Act. No licences were issued.

### **CINEMAS.**

Annual inspections for licensing purposes were carried out at the three local cinemas.





